(Ireland.)

A Copy of the REPORT of the Commissioners of Paving, &c. in DUBLIN, to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; 5th January 1809.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be printed*, 17*th April* 1809.

To His Grace CHARLES LENOX, Duke of Richmond and Lenox, Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

The REPORT of the Commissioners for Paving, Cleansing and Lighting the Streets of DUBLIN.

BY the Act of Parliament passed in the 47th year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual Improvement of the City of Dublin and the Environs thereof," the Commissioners are directed to make "a Report, signed by them, containing a General Statement of their Proceedings since their appointments, or since the last preceding Report, a particular detail of any difficulty which may have occurred to them, their officers, or servants, in the execution of their duties respectively, whereby the same may have been prevented or impeded, or of any inconvenience or deficiency in the existing law, and suggesting such remedy for any of the said matters as shall appear to them most likely to promote the beneficial purposes and objects of this institution."

In order to bring at one view under His Grace's inspection, the Commissioners accompany their Report with a Map of Dublin, whereon the Streets which have been paved by them since their last Report are coloured closely with a red tinge, and those Streets which have been repaired during that time are dotted with the same colour.

The Pavement has been considerably improved, but not in the same extent which it would have been, if the whole of the Taxes intended by the Act of the 47th of His Majesty could have been collected as hereafter mentioned.

The Scavenging has been considerably improved, but from the reasons above assigned, not to the extent that it would have been. They have likewise been obliged to limit their exertions on account of this being the first year of their Taxes, uncertain of their amount and their expences much increased by having implements of all kinds to procure and to pay for. They have however paid unwearied attention to their duties, and to procure every material and implement of the best description and on the most economical terms. Though they are still deficient in the necessary number of the proper kinds of Scavenging Carts (the best patterns of which they have got from Glasgow) they will soon be provided with a sufficient number, and horses to work them.

They found the Lighting under a Contract for three years made by the temporary Commissioners, which will terminate in September next. They have had the greatest difficulty in getting the Contractors to perform their engagements, because they are men of insufficient means, and not able to attend to the duties thereof, one of them being now, and for a considerable time past, in confinement for debt in the Sheriff's Prison, and their Sureties (particularly one of them) who became such from motives of emolument, having in many instances excited the said Contractors to become litigious, and as far as in their power frustrate the Commissioners in such measures as

 they

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they conceived would improve the Lighting, and otherwiſe carry the purpoſes of the Act into more effectual execution; and ſaid Contractors, aware that the Commiſſioners are not provided with Oil-ſtores, have repeatedly threatened to leave the City in total darkneſs, if the Commiſſioners ſhould proceed to enforce the fines and penalties ſaid Contractors have repeatedly ſubjected themſelves to. The Commiſſioners have endeavoured to make ſeveral improvements in the manner of Lighting, and flatter themſelves that they have partly ſucceeded; but every improvement which they may make during this Contract, muſt be accompliſhed with difficulty, and at an additional expence. It is abſolutely neceſſary that the Commiſſioners ſhould have Oil-ſtores, properly provided with the beſt oil, whether they ſhall in future light the Streets by Contract or under their own immediate direction; and under the impreſſion of this neceſſity, they have requeſted powers to rent Oil-ſtores and Store-yards for Paving Materials, &c.

The Commiſſioners have been delayed, and the purpoſes of the Act much impeded, from the difficulty of obtaining Paving Stones, Gravel and Shingle, within their preſent juriſdiction, which has induced them to propoſe an extenſion of juriſdiction, to obtain ſuch materials.

The making of Granite Pavement has been carried on to as great an extent as the novelty of work and the attention due to œconomy would permit; they have now ſome thouſand ton of it in a yard which the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms have allowed them to occupy in a temporary manner, and partly at Dalkey, where it is made. They expect early in the enſuing ſeaſon to pave one conſiderable Street with it, as the making of it is increaſing progreſſively.

One Sewer with ledges for ſupporting main-pipes has been made in Bleſſington-ſtreet; but from the Statement which the Pipe Water Committee have made, aſſerting that the water might be damaged by having their pipes ſo placed, however unfounded this aſſertion might be proved to be by referring it to the Medical Board, yet the Commiſſioners would rather yield than have ſuch an idea prepoſſeſſing the minds of the people, as in the event of any epidemical diſtemper taking place from other cauſes, the Public would then naturally attach it to the water; but they requeſt, as this very great improvement is given up to the obſtinacy of the Pipe Water Committee, that the Government will inſiſt on that Committee's laying all their new mains and new pipes of metal.

The injury which is done to the Pavement of the Streets in winter by the breaches made by the Pipe Water Committee, is equal to the injury done by all the reſt of the inhabitants of Dublin put together, beſides the impoſſibility of ever being certain of any Street continuing in repair for any given time, whatever expence may have been beſtowed upon it. In the Paving Act of the 47th of the King, there are conſiderable powers given for charging the Pipe Water Committee a high rate by the yard, for Streets which they have got twenty-one days notice to repair their pipes in before pavement by the Commiſſioners, and are afterwards broke up by them within three years; but it is coupled with the following ſentence: "or of laying a new Main or Service Pipe, unleſs it ſhall appear that ſuch repairs became neceſſary through accident, and not through any unſoundneſs or rottenneſs of the timber of ſuch Pipes at the time of laying the ſame, they ſhall forfeit and pay to the ſaid Commiſſioners ten ſhillings for every ſquare yard ſuch breach ſhall be;" ſee Sect. 71.

Now the difficulty of proving whether the Timber was unſound or not, puts it out of the power of the Commiſſioners to avail themſelves of this Section of the Act, they have therefore propoſed to amend it by ſubſtituting five ſhillings for the firſt year only after Paving the Street, for every ſquare-yard ſo broken up, and three ſhillings the ſecond and third year for the ſquare-yard, without any reference to the ſtate of timber, which would only lead to an endleſs and uſeleſs diſcuſſion; and further, in the ſame amendment to encourage the laying of Metal Pipes, they have propoſed to free them from all expences of Paving over any breach which they may require to make by the leakage or burſting any Metal Pipe for the firſt five years.

The Commiſſioners have found by this year's experience, that it will be beneficial and œconomical for the purpoſes of their Inſtitution, that they ſhould be enabled to rent Store-yards for their Paving Materials, which have been very much pilfered and ſtolen,

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ſtolen, although they have been at a very great expence in keeping watchmen, with much leſs ſecurity than if they had been enabled to rent yards for that purpoſe. They would likewiſe require yards to depoſit their Scavenging Soil in. They have already adverted to the neceſſity of being enabled to rent Oil-ſtores, which ought to ſtand in a yard by themſelves, inſulated from any other building, on account of fire.

It would likewiſe be very beneficial if they were enabled to rent a large Yard with Stables for their Horſes and Sheds for their Carts, containing alſo accommodation for a Smith's Forge and a Carpenter's Workſhop for the repairs of their Carts and Implements under their own direction and inſpection, as they now meet with much delay and diſappointment from the neglect and careleſſneſs of thoſe they are obliged to employ in different parts of the Town, beſides being often very exorbitantly charged. They gave an order to the perſon who ſuperintends the Farming Society's Yard a conſiderable time ago, to make half a dozen Scavenging Carts after the model of ſome which they had imported from Glaſgow, but there is not one of them yet ready or even in hand.

To obviate theſe difficulties, they have ſuggeſted a Clauſe in the propoſed amendment of the Act, to enable them to rent theſe neceſſary Offices and Yards, having firſt ſubmitted them for the Lord Lieutenant's conſideration and approbation.

They cannot omit ſtating particularly the very great nuiſances which are committed by ſlaughtering in the markets and in yards kept for that purpoſe, which infect not only the Neighbourhood but the whole Town with the moſt noxious filth and effluvia, ſufficient to breed a plague; and as many of the public Sewers paſs under the markets, houſes and ſlaughter-yards, the Butchers open them up in thoſe concealed places, and throw in their offal that they do not think worth carrying away, by which means theſe Sewers are often choaked, and the Cleanſing of them gives the firſt intimation which can be obtained of the cauſe. Next to ſlaughtering, the dairies commit the greateſt nuiſances, and while they are permitted to remain in their preſent ſtate, it will be impoſſible by any exertion or warrantable expence to make clean Streets.

They have encloſed herewith the following Accounts:

Firſt, Of the Taxes received between the 5th January 1808 and the 5th January 1809, including the arrears now due, which they are of opinion cannot be recovered, on account of inſolvency, of former arrears which have been collected during that time, an Eſtimate of that part of the Tax intended by the Act of the 47th of His Majeſty, which they have been adviſed by Counſel might have been ſucceſsfully reſiſted, amounting to upwards of two thouſand pounds a year, and which has induced them to requeſt an amendment to that Act.

Second, Of their diſburſements under the different heads of Lighting, Paving, Scavenging, &c.

They herewith ſubmit the Draft of the Amendments for the conſideration of His Grace the Lord Lieutenant.

(Signed) ALEX^R TAYLOR.
HUGH TREVOR.
GEORGE EWING.

Paving Corporation Houſe,
Dawſon-ſtreet,
5th January 1809.

A true Copy,

J. Roſborough,
Sec^y.

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—2.—

Paving-Office, Dublin, 5th January 1809.

Account of CASH received during the Year ending 5th January 1809; out of which the Expence of the faid Year has been paid.

	£.	s.	d.
Balance of Cafh remaining 5th Jannary 1808 - - - - -	4,600	9	1½
Arrear of the Tax of the former year, collected during the year 1808 -	3,052	6	6½
	7,652	15	8
Out of which the Debts that remained due on 5th January 1808, were paid -	5,344	7	9½
Balance remaining for the ufe of this Account - - - -	2,308	7	10½
Permanent Funds received, viz.			
Amount of the Tax, (chargeable for the year 1808) that has been collected within this period - - - - - - - -	31,995	16	6½
For One Year's Compofition from Corporation of City of Dublin - -	2,370	0	0
Cafual Funds received, viz.			
For Fines on Nuifances - - - - - - -	800	17	6
Fines on Lamp Contractors - - - - - -	595	1	7
Fines on Infpectors, Labourers, &c. - - - - -	23	5	6
Fines on Perfons breaking Lamps - - - - -	29	0	2
For Payments under Depofits for Licences granted to Perfons making openings in the Streets - - - - - - -	312	15	1
For Rent of Part of Corporation Houfe - - - - -	106	17	6
For Scavenging Soil fold - - - - - -	9	16	1
For 84 Lamps lighted at Mountjoy-fquare - - - - -	120	15	0
For fundry incidental Receipts - - - - - -	152	9	1½
	38,825	2	9½

James Hendrick,
Treafurer.

—3.—

Paving-Office, Dublin, 5th January 1809.

	£.	s.	d.
The Arrears of TAXES chargeable for the 25th March 1807, by the late Corporation for Paving, &c. under the former Acts of Parliament, that remained outftanding on the 5th January 1808, which have been collected by the prefent Corporation from 5th January 1808 to the 5th January 1809, amount to the Sum of - - - - - - - - - -	3,052	6	6½
The annual Tax chargeable by the prefent Corporation for Paving, &c. from the 5th January 1808, under the prefent Act, that has been collected from the 5th January 1808 to the 5th January 1809, amounts to the Sum of - -	31,995	16	6½
Total amount of faid Tax and Arrears collected during the year ending 5th January 1809 - - - - - - - - -	35,048	3	1

Note.—On the 5th January 1809, there remained the Sum of £. 3,515. 19s. Arrears uncollected of the faid Tax chargeable under the prefent Act, from the 5th January 1808, of which the Sum of £. 775. 7s. was rated under the head of Public Buildings, which charge being objected to on their part, is not yet reconciled; and the remaining Sum of £. 2,740. 12s. is for the moft part rated on feveral Houfes, Buildings, &c. which are at prefent either Uninhabited, Infolvent or in Ruins, fo that it is very doubtful if any part thereof fhall be recovered.

And it is eftimated that the part of the Tax intended by the Act of the 47 of the King, which could not be recovered, amounts to upwards of £. 2,000.

James Hendrick,
Treafurer.

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—4.—

Paving-Office, Dublin, 5th January 1809.

Account of the EXPENCE for One Year, ending 5th January 1809, as nearly as can be calculated, until the Outſtanding Demands ſhall be aſcertained.

	£.	s.	d.
For Paving	10,915	6	0
Cleanſing	5,426	3	6½
Lighting	10,001	19	8½
Flagging	665	6	2
Sewers £.1,913. 13. 6 } Not included herein, there being a ſeparate Fund for the Expence.	—		
Granite Stones 1,544. 10. 10½ }	—		
Fountains	274	12	7
Corporation Houſe for Rent, Taxes and Repairs	272	8	0½
Miſcellaneous Expences	2,608	14	9½
Salaries and Wages for Eſtabliſhment	5,284	15	3
Annual Wages for Inſpectors of Nuiſances	258	16	9
Compenſations	206	7	6
Poundage to Collectors	876	3	11
Expences, Nuiſances, &c. excluſive of Annual Wages	136	18	9
Annuities for late Commiſſioners, &c.	1,750	0	0
	38,677	13	0

James Hendrick,
Treaſurer.

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